



• INFO memo - June 13, 2003

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City Boasts New 'Address', New Look

Since the debut of the City's site on the World Wide Web nearly 10 years ago, the address has always been the same: www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us. It's now a lot simpler to go to the Internet for information on the City, however.

Beginning this week the City's new address on the Internet is www.brokenarrowok.gov. And the address isn't all that's changed.

In the culmination of a project which began over a year ago, the City's web site is bigger, better and easier to "navigate." There are more than 900 pages and documents on the site, which is divided into the following sections: About BA, Our Citizens, Our Visitors, Help Build BA, Moving to BA and a special feature (Contact Us) with helpful phone numbers for the City offices and other agencies and organizations in the community.

The site was created "in-house" by Communications Coordinator Wayne Bishop, with technical direction from Troy Morris of Morris-Interactive.

In the first week it was on line there were more than 400 visitors each day to the site. One of the biggest differences they noticed was a new Home Page, introducing the specially designed navigation links.

Visitors will still find easy access from the Home Page to the City's parks department, police and fire department sections, City Council, Adopt-A-Pet and Registered Sex Offenders lists. Those builders and developers going to the site will be able to fill in many of the applications and forms on their computers, then print them out and return them to the City offices – saving a trip or two.

There is still a special section on the Centennial, along with additional maps in information on all departments in the City, its history and much more. All City Council members are listed, with individual photos and contact information. Agendas, annotated agendas and minutes are kept on the site, as are copies of these Info Memos, press releases and special announcements.

Those trying to link to the City's old web address, or to many of the department pages from the old web site, will automatically be "redirected" to the new Home Page.

City to be Filled with Flags Saturday

Those who thought Broken Arrow's 2002 venture into Flag Day celebrations was impressive haven't seen anything yet!

Last year's program was limited due to Flag Day falling on a Friday. The parade and activities at Central Park didn't begin until the work day ended.

This Saturday (June 14) the salute to America's "Old Glory" will begin with a parade at 10 a.m. and continue through the day at Central Park with music, speeches, a crafts fair, food and soft drinks and the second annual Fire vs Police softball game (which starts at 4 p.m.).

City Council member Wade McCaleb has chaired the Patriotism Committee for the Council since it was created following 9-11. This year the committee has had the time and the timing to put together a huge program. With the help of the Broken Arrow Visitors and Special Events Board and the BA Arts & Humanities Council the event has been expanded to include other programs tying in with Flag Day. On Monday, June 16, Gene McFall will appear in "The Witty World of Will Rogers," bringing one of Oklahoma's biggest names to life at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. College, starting at 7 p.m.

The parade Saturday will begin at the corner of Main and College, near the old Central Middle School, and will continue up Main Street to Central Park.

COPS Program Funds Police Force Additions

Broken Arrow acting Police Chief Rick Ross and Maj. Todd Wuestewald announced this week that the national COPS program is providing the City with funding for three new officers.

City Manager Michael Kadlecik received the news last week in response to an application made by the BAPD.

"We are not yet sure when the funding will become available," said Wuestewald, "but training will be proceeding immediately with screening of eligible candidates."

Wuestewald went on to explain that as part of the grant requirements, a percentage of the new officers' time will be associated with Homeland Security issues. "We will satisfy this by deploying them in a multi-faceted way," he continued.

Broken Arrow's police, fire and emergency management departments recently participated in a 72-hour Homeland Security exercise at Camp Gruber.

Fiddle King Berline Coming to BA

Byron Berline, who has three times won the title of National Fiddle Champion, will be featured along with his band Tuesday night (June 17) at Broken Arrow's Central Park – the third of the 2003 "Tuesdays in the Park" concert series.

One of the biggest crowds in the five-year history of the program turned out last week despite the area-wide threat of severe weather to enjoy the music of “Mid Life Crisis.” David Blue, coordinator of special events for the Parks & Recreation Department, estimated more than 1,000 were on hand for the free program.

Berline and his band should bring even more music lovers to the park. He’s built his own legend as a Bluegrass performer, having been inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and named one of the state’s top musicians of all time. He moved to Los Angeles in 1969 and wound up performing with The Rolling Stones, The Eagles, The Band, The Byrds, Elton John, Alabama and many others.

He’s recorded six solo albums and done many, many guest performances with big name stars. His “Fiddle & A Song” album was nominated for two Grammy Awards in 1996.

His band includes banjo master John Hickman, Jim Fish on guitar, Richard Sharp on bass and Steve Short on drums.

The Tuesdays in the Park series is a combined effort of the City’s Parks & Recreation Department, the BA Arts & Humanities Council and the Visitors and Special Events Board. This year the Centennial Committee has also been a part of the sponsorship, with several local sponsors. Tuesday night Harmony House Guitars will be giving away an acoustic guitar worth approximately \$500 to one of those in the audience.

Food and soft drinks are available in the park, although those attending may bring their own. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Lawn chairs and blankets can be brought in by those attending.

Showmobile Gets Little Rest

The City’s mobile stage, “Showmobile,” will get little rest this summer. It’s been used in Tulsa events, at Rooster Days, the Tuesdays in the Park concerts and will be moved out to Indian Springs Sports Complex on July 4 for Glory Daze.

In between, the Showmobile will help bring the “Taste of Summer” to Blue Bell Creameries Saturday, June 28.

Blue Bell plans to make this an annual summer event, with “all the ice cream you can eat,” fun, games, local entertainment (on the Showmobile stage), and tours of the production facility at Hwy. 51 and Houston.

Taste of Summer will begin at 9 a.m. and continue through 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 6-18 and senior citizens (55 and over). There will be no charge for children five and under.

For more information you may call Blue Bell at 258-5100.

Spray Pool Near Opening

Broken Arrow’s first spray pool should become a reality this week as final details are being completed at Rockwood West.

This is one of several additions to neighborhood parks over the past several months – ranging from new playground equipment to shelters, ponds, landscaping, trails and the new swimming pool nearly completed at Country Aire Park.

A new diving tower has been added to the original Central Pool, which is hosting the Learn to Swim program again this year. Registration continues for the swimming lessons, which are provided by Red Cross trained instructors.

The Family Aquatic Center in Central Park is now on its regular schedule, which is open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. It's closed Mondays for cleaning.

Former Police Chief Heads Leadership BA

Former Broken Arrow Police Chief Carolyn Kusler, who was a key member of the advisory board for the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Broken Arrow program the previous two years, has taken the position as committee chair this year.

Applications for the Leadership BA Class of 2004 are being accepted now. Deadline for the applications mailed in is a postmark of June 30. Faxed applications or those brought to the Chamber office must be received by July 3 (end of business day). Admission cost for the course is \$250. Those companies or institutions enrolling two or more will get a discount of \$50 on each.

For information on enrollment or financial tuition scholarship assistance, contact the Chamber at 251-1518.

The City of Broken Arrow has been a continuing partner with the Chamber in putting together the classes each year. They are designed to give more citizens in the community an opportunity to be a part of service organizations and Broken Arrow programs.